pen of Dr. C. S. Sargent, published in the New York *Sun* of January third and reprinted by the author in pamphlet form, makes it necessary for us to say, in simple justice to the GAZETTE, that our article was sent to the printers on December 23 and the proof of it corrected and returned before we had seen Dr. Sargent's paper. The reader of the two will notice that the GAZETTE's sketch is much fuller in its account of Gray's early life, while Dr. Sargent's contains a much more extended history of his botanical labors. Having both had access to the same source for our facts the two papers naturally agree closely in some points while at the same time they supplement each other.

THE EDITORS OF THE GAZETTE intend to make their June number one for collectors. This will include not only directions for collecting and preserving all forms of plant life, but all the details of herbarium work. Many specialists will furnish notes pertaining to their own departments, but this early notice is given, with the request that all collectors in every department and all herbarium workers send us notes concerning the collection, transportation, preservation, and final arrangement of plants. The coöperation of botanists will make this number a valuable collector's hand-book.

THE PORTRAIT of Dr. Gray, which we published in our last issue, was made from a photograph taken in 1880. It was selected by Mrs. Gray from the numerous ones in her possession as being the best likeness of the Doctor.

OPEN LETTERS.

Some Variations.

In July, 1885, I collected, in Somerset county, Maine, several specimens of Botrychium matricariæfolium, in which the fertile segments were more compound than in the usual forms, and the sterile segments were smaller, especially narrower, and had sporangia around the edges. Curious looking specimens when compared with the ordinary forms beside which they grew.

In August, at Wenscott Reservoir, R. I., I collected a handful of Monotropa uniflora, one specimen of which had seven petals, twelve stamens, and a six-celled ovary; another had six petals, thirteen stamens, and a six-celled ovary. Several other specimens had some of the parts slightly multiplied, but not so much as these two.

Providence, R. I. —— J. FRANKLIN COLLINS.

Botany at Harvard.

With your permission I should like to explain the statement made on page 397 of the GAZETTE for December, as I understand that some readers have been puzzled to understand why the cryptogamic laboratory of Harvard University is separated from the phænogamic laboratory and united with the zoological department, as appears to be the case from the statement in the GAZETTE. One of the elective courses in the college is called elementary biology, and in that course the rudiments of both botany and zoology are taught by the study of a few types, a plan pursued in several colleges of the country. This course is given in a large-sized laboratory at the Agassiz Museum, and the zoological portion is taught by Prof. Faxon, while it is my duty to teach the